

The Root Cause of all our Troubles - Part 1

Date: 2013-03-10

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva.

The following is a humble effort to transcribe a nectarean thought provoking class given by our beloved spiritual master, HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj, on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 6.15.1, in Radhadesh - Belgium.

śrī-śuka uvāca
ūcatur mṛtakopānte patitaṁ mṛtakopamam
śokābhibhūtaṁ rājānaṁ bodhayantau sad-uktibhiḥ

Sri Sukadeva Goswami said: While King Citraketu, overcome by lamentation, lay like a dead body at the side of the dead body of his son, the two great sages Narada and Angira instructed him about spiritual consciousness as follows.

After reciting the verse Maharaj started narrating the story of Citraketu. Let us now hear from Maharaj.

1. **Krishna's plan alone works:** King Citraketu had only one son. With great difficulty he could get that son. He was not getting the son. He could not get the children at all. Somehow or other, because they performed the penances, Angira Rishi was very pleased by the service of Citraketu king. He wanted to give a benediction. So the king asked for a son. But in his destiny, he was not supposed to have a son. It is a long story of the Vrtrasura demon. He was cursed and he was not supposed to have a son. But we shall relate to the story afterwards. But at the moment, you understand that **if something is planned according to the plan of the Lord, then nobody can change that plan.** But Angira Rishi was very pleased. So he wanted to give the benediction and because he had promised him to give the benediction, whatever the king asked, in the end, Angira Rishi was forced to give. But even then, we cannot ignore the destiny. So Angira Rishi told him that he will give a son. But the son will be the cause for happiness and lamentation. The cause of happiness was that after a long time, the king could get an heir-apparent to his throne. The king thought that, "Let me have the son first and then we will see about the lamentation. Let me first have happiness and then I will consider about the lamentation. I will not lament." In that way Citraketu was satisfying himself.

Somehow or the other his first queen got a son. And this was source of extreme happiness. In the kingdom everyone was very happy. But they didn't know that he was short-lived. He was killed eventually. It so happened that the co-wives of the king, were jealous of the Queen Krtadyuti and because they were jealous, they tried to poison the son, the young son. And within no time, the young son had to succumb his life, due to the poisoning. And as soon as they found that the son is dead, that was the cause of grievous lamentation. They could not tolerate his death. That's why Angira Rishi had told him that the son will be the source of happiness and lamentation. This particular story is revolving around the envious nature of the co-wives. **We have to remember that we are very envious of each other. We may see each other, smile at each other, talk to each other, but in the heart of hearts, we hate each other and most probably we hate the Supreme Lord.** We think, "Why this Krishna should sit in the altar? Why cannot I sit there? If we can, we will just remove the Deities and we will sit there and say, 'Just glorify me.'" **This is how we want to enjoy and this is the root cause of all our troubles.**

Krishna willing we shall continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj in the subsequent offerings.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Sudarshana devi dasi.

The Root Cause of all our Troubles - Part 2

Date: 2013-03-11

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,
Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva.

This is in continuation of the transcription of the nectarean class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 6.15.1, in Radhadesh Belgium. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj

1. Krishna's plan alone works.

Now let us continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj.

2. **Envy - The Root Cause of all our Troubles:** It is not only that envy is playing important part in Citraketu's life or Krtadyuti's life, but everywhere. Do you know what was the root cause of Ramayan? (Devotee replied - Kaikeyi's envy. But Maharaj denied). No. It was much deeper than that. Kaikeyi was equally loving to Lord Ram and in the beginning when it was decided, Lord Ram is to be enthroned tomorrow as the king, she was very happy and she was preparing, but there was her maid-servant Mantara and she was really like a snake and you know the nature of snake. Without any cause, the snake bites. They don't require any cause. You come across a snake and without any reason it will come near you and bite you and that was how Mantra's envy was. Without any reason she was envious of Lord Ram and she thought, how to remove Lord Ram from this position. She didn't want Lord Ram to be the king. May be it is the plan of the Lord and **according to the plan of the Lord all we living entities behave helplessly, according to His plan.** Krishna says in Bhagavad Gita verse 3.5,

*na hi kaścit kṣaṇam api jātu tiṣṭhaty akarma-kṛt
kāryate hy avaśaḥ karma sarvaḥ prakṛti-jair guṇaiḥ*

Everyone is forced to act helplessly according to the qualities he has acquired from the modes of material nature; therefore no one can refrain from doing something, not even for a moment.

We always perform our activities, unconsciously (*avaśaḥ*). We don't know the plan of the Lord. Parikshit Maharaja, was not supposed to be angry when the sage did not welcome him. We know from Bhagavatam that when Parikshit Maharaja went to the forest for hunting, he didn't get any animal. Because he was running after the animals till the evening, he was lost from his crowd. He was all alone and he was hungry and thirsty. Normally he could have tolerated his hunger and thirst, because he was a devotee. Even before his birth, he was protected by Vishnu in the womb of his mother and such a nice devotee gets upset, because the sage is in meditation and he did not welcome the king. This is how we helplessly behave. Parikshit Maharaja was completely helpless, because he had to fit in himself according to the plans of the Lord.

Lord has His own plans. Our plans don't work. That's why we get frustrated. I try so much to be successful financially, materially, I want this, I want that. But we don't know, '*daivāhatārtha-racanā ṛṣayo 'pi deva yuṣmat-prasaṅga-vimukhā iha sarṁsaranti*' (SB 3.9.10). Krishna is very clear in Srimad Bhagavatam. As soon as you make your plans, there is *daiva*, we don't know that there is destiny hanging above our head. You come all the way from India to this country, you come all the way from Poland to Radha-desh, just to find out the happiness. And we are fortunate that we are at the lotus feet of the Lord. Otherwise, *yuṣmat-prasaṅga-vimukhā* - As soon as we become bereft of the topics of Krishna, and if we are not interested in the topics of the Supreme Lord, then *daiva ahatārtha racanā* - then the destiny just smashes the plans for ordinary persons as well as devotees. Devotees, have nothing to gain or lose. That is the quality of devotee. Anyway we didn't have anything when we were born. And we cannot take

anything when we go. So whatever comes and goes, it is Krishna's plan. This is very clear to the devotees. But the ordinary persons, they are completely perplexed. *daiva ahatārtha racanā* -They don't know that destiny is there to smash their plans.

Krishna willing we shall continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj as to how destiny acted on great souls like Dasaratha Maharaja and others in the subsequent offering.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,
Sudarshana devi dasi.

The Root Cause of all our Troubles - Part 3

Date: 2013-03-12

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva.

This is in continuation of the transcription of the nectarean class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 6.15.1, in Radhadesh Belgium. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj the following points.

1. Krishna's plan alone works.
2. Envy - The Root Cause of all our Troubles.

Now let us continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj.

3. **What we sow, so shall we reap:** Dasaratha Raja planned very nicely that Rama should be the next king and then he wanted to retire. He wanted to have a happy retired life. His daiva (destiny) did not like it. **Daiva or destiny is nothing else but the reactions to our own karmas. We have performed the actions and we have to reap the results.** At the time of performing the activities, we don't have any idea as to what will be the reaction and how I will be suffering. We don't have any idea at all. Dasaratha Raja went for hunting in the forest and he could not find any animal till the evening. And it was almost dark. He could not see anything. But at that time somebody came to fill in water from the Ganges. It was Shravan. Shravan was a nice boy who was carrying his parents on his shoulder, to take them to pilgrimage. The parents were blind. He came to fill in water as the parents said, "We are very thirsty. Please get us some water from Ganges river." As soon as he went to the Ganges river and put the lotta (water-bottle) inside to fill up the water, there was some sound like somebody drinking the water. Dasaratha Raja thought that some animal has come to drink water from the Ganges. He didn't see. He was very expert in archery. So he shot the arrow according to the direction of the sound. And eventually the arrow hit the target and as soon as the arrow hit the target, there was a human scream. It was Shravan who was killed at that time. Immediately Dasaratha Raja went to him. He could have ignored it as a king. He was a rishi, a saint. So he could not ignore. So he went to the dying person and wondered, "What have I done? I have shot a person and not an animal." Shravan said, "Please, my parents are very thirsty. I came to get water for them. Please give it to them and reveal that I am not there now."

So Dasaratha went to the parents and said, "This is what has happened. But I am very sorry. It is I who had done this crime. Please, I am very sorry. Please accept the water and let me know what can I do for you?" The parents were completely disturbed because of the death of the son. So when they were disturbed, they also died without the son. And they cursed Dasaratha, "Just like how we are dying without our son Shravan, you will also die without your son." And that destiny was lurking over the head of Dasaratha Raja and he didn't know. And Mantara became the instrument, *avaśāḥ*, unconsciously that maid-servant was the instrument, according to the plan of the Lord. Mantara thought, "How to achieve my goal? How to remove Lord Rama from throne?" So she went to Kaikeyi. She knew Kaikeyi will not agree easily. So she said, "Your son Bharath is not getting the throne. He will not be the king. And Lord Rama will use him as the servant for whole of life-time. Instead, you should go and tell your husband that Lord Rama cannot be the king and that Bharath must be the king." This is how envious nature plays around.

As soon as Kaikeyi thought about this, she was completely intoxicated by her maid-servant Mantara. And **once you are intoxicated, you behave like a mad-person.** And she remembered that Dasaratha Raja had given benedictions to Kaikeyi and she thought that she will ask the benedictions today. So she went to Dasaratha and she had her own ways to dictate the terms with her husband. She told, "Do you remember you had given me 2 benedictions? Now I want to ask them." Dasaratha Maharaj was very pleased because he thought, tomorrow Lord Ram is going to be king. So he said, "Come on ask. I can give you anything." Then she said, "Tomorrow Rama should not be

enthroned. Not only that, Rama should be banished from Ayodhya and sent to forest for 12 years." And this was the death-blow for Dasaratha Raja. He could not tolerate. He told Kaikeyi, "Please ask anything else other than this. Ask for the whole kingdom and I shall give you." She said, "No. I want only this. If you are true to your benedictions, then give me this. Otherwise I don't even want to see your face." And then Dasaratha Maharaja became unconscious. And in the mean time Lord Rama came and because He was very famous for obeying His parents, particularly His father, He asked what had happened. When He knew that He is the cause of all the disturbances, then He accepted the orders of His step-mother and eventually He had to leave the palace and go to the forest and the whole Ramayan was performed.

Krishna willing we shall continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj about destiny and how we can handle the same in the subsequent offerings.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Sudarshana devi dasi.

The Root Cause of all our Troubles - Part 4

Date: 2013-03-13

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva.

This is in continuation of the transcription of the nectarean class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 6.15.1, in Radhadesh Belgium. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj the following points.

1. Krishna's plan alone works.
2. Envy - The root cause of all our troubles.
3. What we sow, so we reap.

Now let us continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj.

4. **Power of Destiny:** Destiny will never allow you to rest in peace. In Sanskrit it is known as *bhāgya* and the nature of *bhāgya* is that when you are laughing, *bhāgya* will cry and when you cry, *bhāgya* will laugh. *Bhāgya* will not like you to laugh. That is the nature. Somehow or the other it will catch you and it will catch you right at the time when you think that you are going to be happy. There was a Greek man, who was trying to push a stone up the hill. People told him, "You are mad. There are so many stones at the top of the hill. Why do you want to push this stone up the hill?". But he said, "No. I want to do it." So day and night, he was labouring to push the stone to the peak of the mountain. Somehow or the other from years of labour he pushed the big stone. How much labour? Just to push the whole big stone! Eventually he found out that there is no place to put the stone there. As soon as he put the stone, to the other side it glided down immediately. This is *bhāgya*. You try hard, you try hard, you kill yourself and when you think that you will be happy, you are completely down into the well. This is *bhāgya*. ***Bhāgya will never leave you and it is definitely our own reaction or the plan of the Lord.*** The plan of the Lord was that He must go to the forest and that He should not be the king for 12 years and then kidnapping of Sita by Ravana and then the killing of the demon. This was Lord's plan and because of this Lord did not wish that He should be the king and this all happened through the envy of one maid servant.

Take the example of Karna, Pandavas' elder brother. Because he was born when Kunti was unmarried, she could not keep her. It is a long story. Kunti got a benediction that she could invoke any demigod and get a son. She got this benediction from Durvasa Muni for very nice service and she was very happy to have this benediction and she tried. One day she happened to stand near the window and see the golden sun rising. She thought if she could invoke sun god, it will be very nice and she invoked sun god. Sun god Vivasvan came in front of her and she was perplexed. She said, "I just did for fun. Please go back." He said, "No. I must give you a son." She was completely perplexed. She said, "How can you give me son? I am not married and so I can't keep him now. I don't want it now." Sun god said, "No. You have invoked and I have to give. But one thing I will tell you. You will not lose your virginity even if you have that son." And that son was born out of ear of Kunti and that's why he was known as Karna. In Sanskrit *karna* means ears. So the father was sun god and because of the sun god's mercy, Karna had kavaca and kuntala with him when he was born. Such a powerful father like sun god, and such a great mother like Kunti and see the destiny of Karna. Kunti could not keep him and what to do with the small child? She put him in a basket and floated in the Ganges river. It was none of Karna's fault. But see how the destiny is working? When he was floating in the river, somehow or the other he was caught by the fisher-man and his wife, Radha. Then he was brought up by them. Karna did not know that his father was sun god and that his mother was Kunti. He was thinking all the time that the fisher-man is his father and mother is the fisher-woman Radha and that's why Karna's other name is Radheya - son of Radha. And this way he was brought up to 16 years of age.

Krishna willing we shall continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj about how destiny played in Karna's life and how we can handle destiny in our lives the same in the subsequent offerings.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,
Sudarshana devi dasi.

The Root Cause of all our Troubles - Part 5

Date: 2013-03-14

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva.

This is in continuation of the transcription of the nectarean class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 6.15.1, in Radhadesh Belgium. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj the following points.

1. Krishna's plan alone works.
2. Envy - The root cause of all our troubles.
3. What we sow, so shall we reap.
4. Power of destiny.

Now let us continue on the same topic power of destiny and hear from Maharaj how destiny played in the life of Karna.

Because Karna had kshatriya blood, being the son of powerful sun god, he wanted to learn archery. He wanted to conquer the whole world and become a most important king. And this was the burning desire in his mind. So he had to go to some guru to learn this vidya, knowledge. So he thought, "Who is the best guru? Dronacharya. So I must approach Dronacharya." So he went to Dronacharya and said, "I want to learn archery. Please accept me as your disciple." Dronacharya asked, "Who are you?" Karna replied, "I am suta-putra, fisher-man's son. My mother is brahmin and father is shudra." Dronacharya replied, "No. You are shudra. I will not accept a shudra disciple." Immediately he was rejected. None of his fault and he was actually not shudra. See how destiny plays! He was not shudra. But even then, all the time he was calling himself as suta-putra. See how Lord arranges the plans. Because Lord knew that Karna is very powerful and if he takes the knowledge from Drona, if he becomes expert in archery, he will be much more expert in archery than Arjuna. And Lord did not want that. Krishna did not want that. Krishna wanted him to be lower than Arjuna and somehow or the other Arjuna was very powerful. Lord's plan always works. He kept Karna in the disguised position for the whole of the life. And because of this Karna could not find a guru in Dronacharya.

He went to the celestial guru, Bhargava. He told him, "Please accept me as your disciple. I want to be expert in archery." Then he thought, "Now Bhargava will ask me the question, who am I and if I tell him that I am suta-putra, then again this guru also will deny. He will not accept me as a disciple." So he lied a bit and thought that "I am half-brahmin and half-shudra. So let me introduce myself as a brahmin." So when he told Bhargava, "I am a brahmin", Bhargava was very happy to receive a brahmin disciple and said, "Come, come. I will teach you." He taught the whole knowledge to Karna and Karna became an expert in archery. And now he could defeat anybody and everybody, much more than Arjuna. He became powerful because of the archery and he had a dream now that as soon as he goes out, he will conquer the whole empire and be a very prominent king. That was his desire. That was his plan that when he could complete his education, learning archery very successfully under a celestial guru and nobody would then be able to defeat him. But the Lord's plans were different. So what happened, when the time came for his departure, Bhargava and Karna both were moving together in the garden of the ashrama. Guru thought that, "I will take rest for some time under a tree." So he told Karna, "Please go to the ashram and bring the deer-skin roll, so that I can use it as pillow and lie down." Now Karna thought, "Anyway I am leaving now. So I must serve my Guru." So he said, "There is no need of my going to the ashram to bring the deer-skin roll. I would like to serve you. I will sit under the tree and you can sleep on my lap." So Guru was very pleased with disciple, "Oh very nice obliging disciple." So Guru slept on his lap. And in the meantime see how bhāgya works. Under the lap of Karna there was a horrible insect which was cutting his lap. Not only stinging. We cannot tolerate the sting. But this insect was cutting the lap. It was such a horrible pain that Karna had. But he thought, if he moves the lap, Guru will be disturbed. So he didn't want to

disturb guru and he tolerated the cut of the insect. And the insect did not stop. It cut a hole through his thigh and came up. Blood was coming out and he tolerated it. Blood was gushing out and it touched the cheeks of the Guru.

As soon as Guru was touched by the blood he asked, "What is it?" There was blood everywhere. Karna happily told him that he tolerated all these inconveniences, so that Guru is not disturbed. Instead of being happy at the disciple, see the plan of the Lord, the Guru was completely angry and upset at this incident. He said, "A brahmana cannot tolerate this. So tell me the truth. You are not a brahmana." He doubted, because a brahmana, if he sees the insect, he will run 5 miles away (laughter). And eventually Karna had to tell the truth. See while the day was there when he wanted to take leave from Guru, he could have taken leave and just brought the deer skin and let guru sleep on the pillow of deer skin. But Lord's plan only works. And that's why he served Guru, tolerated this much for Guru and in the end instead of being pleased, Guru was angry with him and found out that he was not brahmin. So Guru said, "I will curse you that whatever I taught you, at the time of need, you will forget." It is a horrible curse you know. At the time of need, if he forgets archery, then how can he win his enemies? So his dream was completely smashed and scattered. Like how Lord Ram's coronation was stopped over-night because of Mantara's envy, here bhāgya is playing with Karna.

Krishna willing we shall continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj about how we can handle destiny in our lives in the subsequent offerings.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,

Sudarshana devi dasi.

The Root Cause of all our Troubles - Part 6

Date: 2013-03-15

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva.

This is in continuation of the transcription of the nectarean class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 6.15.1, in Radhadesh Belgium. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj the following points.

1. Krishna's plan alone works.
2. Envy - The root cause of all our troubles.
3. What we sow, so we reap.
4. Power of Destiny

Now let us continue to hear more nectar on the power of destiny from Maharaj.

Karna was at the top of the happiness, but as soon as he reached the peak, just like how the stone glided down to the other side of the valley and the whole labour was completely lost, the whole labour of Karna was completely lost. And he became very dejected and didn't know what is happening. He didn't know. This is the cause of our frustrations in life also. Because we don't know the intricacies of bhāgya. ***We don't know the intricacies of the destiny. And when the reaction comes of our own actions, then we become completely frustrated and we lose ourselves and if we haven't taken the shelter of the lotus feet of the Lord, we will go and commit suicide.***

That is what is happening. Other day we came across a town here which is very famous for suicide. So the devotee here was telling me that this town is famous for suicide especially after Christmas. Because before Christmas they enjoy. They drink and do this and do that. But after Christmas there is no money, no liquor, no friends, unemployment is there. They are frustrated and there are tall buildings in that town. And they just fall down from that building. This is the effect of not tolerating our destiny. We can't. ***If we know that Lord is in control of everything, then we will tolerate the destiny.***

The destiny of Karna did not stop here. He then went to the sea-coast, just to see the water. When we see mass of water, we feel bit satisfied. And that is why we are mad after going to sea-coast and beaches. But we have perverted enjoyment, sleeping there naked and enjoying the sun. That is not correct. It is the sight of water that satisfies you. You go on the sea-coast and sit there and look at the water and you know that it is the energy of Krishna. You go to the mountains and you feel the energy of Krishna in the mass of the stone. You go to Himalayas. Thousands of people go to Himalayan pilgrim centers. Why? We see the great mass of the stone and when we see, our mind completely boggles. Because we are habituated to seeing small stones and as soon as we are high up there, we see the mass of stones standing unlimited, and then we know what Krishna's energy is. Unknowingly we are shocked. You know *adbhut*. That is one of the rasas, one of the mellows, that is being completely shocked, when we see the mass of the stones or water everywhere. When you go in a steamer in the ocean, your steamer looks small and everywhere there is water, and that gives you the idea, of the energy of Krishna and that is why we are very satisfied. So Karna went and sat near ocean and after sometime, he felt somewhat better. Some how or the other he pacified himself. He started walking towards the fields. Some animal ran from his side. See the destiny. How it plays. He thought that it is a deer. Because he was expert in archery, he shot the arrow without looking at the animal and the animal fell dead. He went to see the animal and to his surprise when he went to see the animal, it was not a deer. But it was a cow. "Pooh!" He said. "God!".

Destiny never stops. Difficulties never come singly. That you have to remember. In our life, there won't be one difficulty. When the difficulty attacks you, it attacks in a group. All the difficulties come together and they drive you completely mad, completely mad. And we run around without any shelter everywhere. This is the nature of the

difficulty. And Karna was victimised by these unknown difficulties. He said, "What have I done! I have killed a cow." He prayed to the Lord, "Please Lord, unknowingly I have killed a cow." But knowingly or unknowingly the cow was killed. And because the cow was killed, the owner of the cow was disturbed. He was a brahmana and he said, "You killed my cow. I am very upset. What did you do? Why did you do when the animal is in helpless condition?". Karna said, "Please, I will give 1000 more cows. Please excuse me. I didn't know that it was a cow. I thought it was a deer. So unknowingly I shot the arrow and it is hit and now I can't do anything." So what happened the brahmana got angry and he cursed Karna again, "At the time of death, when you are attacking your enemy, the wheel of your chariot will get stuck in the mud. And you will have to get down to take out the wheel from the mud, so that your chariot can move. And that time you will be helpless and that time your enemy will shoot the arrow. And we all know Karna's end. It was Krishna's trick. When Karna's wheel was stuck in the mud, chariot wheel, he got down to release it and at that time Krishna told Arjuna, "Come on. Finish him now. Shoot the arrow." And Arjuna shot the arrow and Karna was killed. See, he was on the peak of happiness. He wanted to be the king and he would have been the king. But destiny completely dragged him down and finished him off and that is destiny.

Krishna willing we shall continue to hear from Maharaj about how we can handle destiny in our lives in the subsequent offerings.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,
Sudarshana devi dasi.

The Root Cause of all our Troubles - Part 7

Date: 2013-03-16

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva.

This is in continuation of the transcription of the nectarean class given by our beloved spiritual master H H Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 6.15.1, in Radhadesh Belgium. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj the following points.

1. Krishna's plan alone works.
2. Envy - The root cause of all our troubles.
3. What we sow, so we reap.
4. Power of Destiny

Now let us continue to hear more nectar from Maharaj on how to handle destiny and other points.

5. **Handling Destiny in our lives:** In Citraketu's life also destiny played with him. But fortunately Narada and sage Angira were there. So Citraketu was saved. We must always remember that this envy is very powerful and with the envy, this destiny we cannot conquer and that is definite. You try hard. You try so many plans. But unless the Lord sanctions your plans, nothing happens. '*mayādhyakṣeṇa prakṛtiḥ, suyate sa-carācaram*' - He said, "**Under My superintendence your plans work.**" What is the meaning of superintendence? ***We intend so many things. We intend to do so many things. But unless the Lord super-intends, nothing materialises. And for His super-intention, we have to come to this hall daily and pray with folded hands, "Please, Please do whatever I can do and make me some successful somewhere, materially or spiritually, whatever You want. Can I fit into your plan?" Just ask Him very humbly, "Can I fit into Your plan anywhere?" and He will be kind then.*** And then may be because of His mercy, we will be happy in this life and as soon as the body drops, we will be more happier than this and that is what the devotees are looking for.

6. **Envy degrades us** : Regarding this envy I will conclude with a nice story, which you will remember very nicely. There was a Muslim king in India known as Akbar. In his cabinet, there were so many ministers - all were Muslims. But there was one Hindu minister and his name was Mahesh das. And he was only one Hindu in the whole cabinet. So the muslim ministers were envious of him. And this Mahesh das thought, "I should not keep this name, otherwise they will constantly remember that I am Hindu." So he changed his name as Birbal. Birbal was very clever and without his assistance, Akbar would not have expanded his kingdom and could not have managed the kingdom. He was very important for Akbar. But somehow or the other all other ministers were envious of him and wanted to get rid of him. *All of them were envious of Birbal and they were constantly harassing him, by finding different plans. But Birbal was very clever and he could slip out of all these things, because he also took the assistance of envy.* These ministers were envious of him and he knew how to manipulate the envy of the queen to topple their plan. You can remember this story and this envy will be clear out of your mind.

So one day they decided that if somehow or the other, they could convince the queen, then the queen could convince Akbar that he should get rid of this Birbal. So they found out a nice plan. This queen had a brother. His name was Hussain Shah and he was a fool. He was a duns, did not understand anything. But these ministers went to the queen and said, "Queen, your brother is the most clever person, we have ever come across." The queen was very pleased. Ladies are very pleased when their brothers are praised. If you want to lead a happy life with your wife, then you should praise her brother (laughter). They continued, "We like Hussain Shah very much. He should only accompany your husband, Akbar. But instead Akbar is always accompanied by the foolish person Birbal, the Hindu minister. Somehow or the other queen, it is in your hands. You can get rid of Birbal and we want to install your brother as

minister. Because such a clever brother is there and your husband is completely mad person to go with Birbal." This is the result of envy you know. Queen said, "Alright, leave it to me. Birbal will be removed tomorrow." The ministers thought, "Our plan is working", and they went home happily and enjoyed with beer, whisky etc.

Krishna willing, in the next offering we can hear from Maharaj as to how the Queen tried to decry Birbal and how he handled the envious people.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,
Sudarshana devi dasi.

The Root Cause of all our Troubles - Part 8

Date: 2013-03-17

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,
Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva.

This is in continuation of the transcription of the nectarean class given by our beloved spiritual master, HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 6.15.1, in Radhadesh Belgium. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj the following points.

1. Krishna's plan alone works.
2. Envy is the root cause of all our troubles.
3. What we sow, so we reap.
4. Power of Destiny
5. Handling Destiny in our lives.
6. Envy degrades us.

Under the topic of how envy degrades us we were hearing from Maharaj how **with envious heart we can never overcome destiny. But by humbly surrendering unto the Lord and requesting Him to fit us in His plans , praying to Him to use us as His instrument, we will be able to tolerate and face destiny.** In this regard Maharaj also told nice humorous story of Birbal and Akbar, wherein Akbar's ministers, out of envy had approached the queen, requesting her to get rid of Birbal. The queen agreed to help them with some plan. Let us continue to hear the story further from Maharaj here.

The queen devised a plan. So when Akbar came to the bedroom in the evening, she would not talk. Akbar came near her and she turned her face away. He asked, "Madam what is happening?" Wherever Akbar went, she just moved away. He asked, "Please queen, can I do anything for you?" Queen replied, "You never do anything for me." Akbar said, "No,no,no. Whatever you tell I will do for you. Please talk. I can touch your feet." (laughter) Such a big king, at the feet of queen. For the whole of the lifetime he is like a slave for the queen and she is completely disregarding him. Akbar was completely helpless. Then he says, "Please excuse me. Please tell me what is wrong and I will definitely fix it for you." Now queen got a grip over the situation and she thought now is the chance. The queen said, "My brother is so very clever." Akbar asked, "Who? Hussain shah? Queen, you don't know he is a big duns." (laughter) Queen said angrily, "I know you. You always tell like that." Then Akbar consoled her, "Alright. Your brother is clever." Then she said, "And you are just hanging on to this Hindu minister Birbal." "Ahh.." Then Akbar found out that she had some motive in her mind. Queen continued, "Tomorrow you should get rid of him." He said, "Without him I cannot do anything. We have to expand the kingdom. We have to manage the kingdom. Please, please understand the importance. He is very clever. Without him we cannot do. All the ministers are one side and he is on the other side. He can compete with anybody." She said, "No. you don't know. My brother is more clever than him. What is Birbal? He is nothing. Tomorrow, you should install my brother as the chief-minister and sack Birbal." Akbar asked, "But how can I sack him without any reason?".

So the queen thought that now her plan is working. So she said, "Don't worry. I will tell you a plan. Tomorrow, you go to the court and you tell Birbal that you want to go to the market and that Birbal should accompany you." Akbar asked, "Alright, then what to do?" Queen said, "When you are in the middle of the market, you tell Birbal, 'Go and bring the queen'. He will immediately come to my palace and would request me to come but I will not accompany him. If I don't come, you accuse him and say, 'You can't do such a simple job. How can you run a kingdom? I was telling you to bring the queen and you cannot bring the queen. So you are sacked.' That is nice reason to sack because I am not going to come." Akbar said, "You should be very clear in your mind that you should not come to the market. But if you

come to the market, then the whole plan will be spoiled." Queen said, "No, no. I am not coming at all, I assure you." So next day he went to the court, completely intoxicated by the plan of the Queen. He knew that Birbal was very clever. From the figure of the king itself, Birbal knew that something was wrong. He sensed something. But he didn't know what it is. As soon as Birbal went to him, Akbar said, "Today we are going to the market." Birbal said, "Jahan panah! (respectful term for king in Urdu) I must tell you that there is so much important business to do and we cannot afford to waste time in the market. Akbar said, "No. No. We have to go to the market." Birbal asked, "If it is alright if someone else accompanies you instead of me?" Akbar said, "No. no. you should only come."

Krishna willing we shall continue to hear the remaining story from Maharaj in the subsequent offering.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,
Sudarshana devi dasi.

The Root Cause of all our Troubles - Part 9

Date: 2013-03-18

Author: Sudarshana devi dasi

Hare Krishna Prabhujis and Matajis,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva.

This is in conclusion of the transcription of the nectarean class given by our beloved spiritual master HH Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj on Srimad Bhagavatam verse 6.15.1, in Radhadesh Belgium. In the previous offering we heard from Maharaj the following points.

1. Krishna's plan alone works.
2. Envy - The root cause of all our troubles.
3. What we sow, so we reap.
4. Power of destiny
5. Handling destiny in our lives.
6. Envy degrades us.

Under the topic of how envy degrades us we were hearing from Maharaj how *with envious heart we can never overcome destiny. But by humbly surrendering unto the Lord and requesting him to fit us in his plans, to use us as His instrument, we will be able to tolerate and face destiny.* In this regard Maharaj also told nice humorous story of Birbal and Akbar, wherein Akbar's ministers out of envy had approached the queen, requesting her to get rid of Birbal. Queen devised a plan and somehow intoxicated Akbar to carry out her plan. As per her plan Akbar was supposed to take Birbal to the market and later send him to bring the queen. When he fails to do that, he will be sacked by Akbar, for not being able to do such a simple job. The queen assured Akbar that she will not come to the market under any condition. Akbar knew that Birbal was clever, but still as per Queen's plan he asked Birbal to accompany him to the market. Let us continue to hear the remaining part of the story from Maharaj.

Birbal definitely knew that there was some plan. He didn't know what it is. He had a very trusted friend and so he told him, "Today we will need you. But it must not be seen that you are accompanying us." So king and Birbal both of them were going to the market and the friend was accompanying him. In the middle of the road, Akbar stopped according to the plan and said, "Birbal, Go and fetch the queen. I want the queen to be with me." Birbal thought, "Never he orders me to go to the palace and bring the queen. So there must be some plan devised by the queen." He knew that these people are envious and always he is the target. So what happened, he said, "Yes, within no time, I will bring you the queen." So he went to the palace and he took his friend with him. He went inside the room and said, "Queen, I am sorry to trouble you. But today king wants you in the market and he is standing in the middle of the road and waiting for you. We don't have much time. So please come with me. I will take you to him." Queen said, "No. I am not coming. Tell him I am busy." "No. No. Queen. Don't do this. Please come. Otherwise, I will be in difficulty." "No. I am telling you I am not coming. You just go and tell your king." "No, no. Queen this is no good. please come, just be merciful to me." Queen replied, "I am telling you, Go. I am not coming." Birbal understood that she is not going to come.

So he went out and made a plan with his friend. He said, "Now I am going to go and request her again to come. But she will not come." So they had their own plan. So Birbal again went to Queen's room. He said, "Queen, please I cannot go without you." She shouted at him, "I told you..." At that time the friend entered the room and he spoke to Birbal, "I have a very serious message from the king. But I cannot tell everybody. It is just for you only Birbal. So I will have to tell you secretly and Queen should not hear." So he came closer to Birbal's ear and whispered something, "...very beautiful,...very beautiful" (laughter). He spoke such that that the queen does not hear anything else except the words 'very beautiful'. So the queen did not understand what the message was. But she just heard the words, "Very beautiful!" Then Birbal turned to the Queen and said, "Queen! we don't want you" (loud laughter). The queen was completely perplexed. She thought, "Just few minutes ago, this fellow was requesting me like anything and now he

says I am not required. What is the trouble?" She just heard, "very beautiful". So she thought that there should be some beautiful girl with the king. Then she thought, "How can any other girl be with the king? I must be with the king!" And she ran. Before Birbal went, the queen was there. And Akbar looked at her and said, "See, you came!" (loud laughter). This is how envious nature works.

Please don't fall prey to envy. Drive away envy and we will be in Goloka Vrindavan eternally. There is no envy there. Envy does not work there. Hare Krishna. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. Srila Prabhupada ki Jai!

Srila Mahavishnu Goswami Maharaj Gurudev ki Jai ! Our heart felt thanks to Maharaj for sharing such thought provoking, nectarean instructions. Maharaj narrated the story with so much relish. It would be more apt to say that Maharaj enacted each role so nicely that everyone in the class relished and enjoyed it to fullest extent. But due to my limited capacity, I was unable to capture the mood of Maharaj while transcribing the same. We pray for his mercy to remember these valuable instructions and apply the same in our lives.

Thank you very much.

Yours in service of Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudeva,
Sudarshana devi dasi.